



The North American Mobeds Council

Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held in person and electronically on June 1st and 2nd, 2024, at Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) – New York.

Attendees:

In person:

1. Ervad Tehemtom Mirza (President)
2. Ervad Jamshed Dastur (Vice President)
3. Ervad Mehbad Dastur (Executive Officer)
4. Ervad Porus Pavri
5. Ervad Cawas Desai
6. Ervad Parvez Patel
7. Ervad Porus Khambatta
8. Ervad Ardaviraf Minocherhomjee
9. Ervad Adil Massani

By Zoom:

10. Ervad Pauzash Mithaiwala (Secretary and Treasurer CAN)
11. Ervad Behram Panthaki
12. Ervad Gev Karkaria
13. Ervad Jal Birdy
14. Mobedyar Bomi Damkevala
15. Ervad Nozer Kotwal
16. Ervad Kobad Zarolia
17. Ervad Fariborz Shahzadi
18. Ervad Jimmy Doctor
19. Ervad Kaus Doctor
20. Ervad Kash doctor
21. Mobedyar Teshtar Irani
22. Ervad Jal Panthaky
23. Ervad Burjor Dastur
24. Ervad Adi Unwala
25. Ervad Firdaus Dhabhar
26. Mobedyar Jamshid Pouresfandiary
27. Ervad Pesi Vazifdar

1) Welcome and Introductions:

NAMC President Ervad Tehemtom Mirza welcomed all the participants, and the meeting was called to order, followed by a short prayer.

- 2) Read and Approve minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
Following some discussion, the minutes were adopted
Moved by Cawas Desai, seconded by Arda Minocherhomjee. Unanimously accepted.
- 3) Financial Statements and financial reports:
 - a) In the absence of the Treasurer, the President elaborated on the financial statements.
 - b) Following discussions, the Canada financial statements were approved. Moved by Arda Minocherhomjee, seconded by Cawas Desai. Unanimously accepted.
 - c) Following discussions, the US financial statements were approved. Moved by Adil Massani, seconded by Cawas Desai. Unanimously accepted.
- 4) Presidents Report
President Ervad Tehemton Mirza presented his report of NAMC's achievements in the past year:
 - i) NAMC participation at the Parliament of World Religions (PoWR):
 - (1) NAMC represented by Kobad Zarolia, Bomi Damkevala and Tehemton Mirza.
 - (2) Moderated an interfaith panel discussion on the United Nation's SDG17 – Power of Science with Faith.
 - (3) Presented “Explore Zoroastrianism” at the Zoroastrian Faith room.
 - ii) The first NAMC Liaison Mobed meeting was held in January 2024; the next is scheduled in June/July 2024.
 - iii) NAMC participation at the Global Working Group meeting in Mumbai in January 2024 and presentation on the status of Mobeds in North America.
 - iv) “Young Mobed Training Program” in July 2023 in Houston that trained 10 Young Mobeds between the ages of 11 and 25.
 - v) Ervad Mirza concluded with a call to members - We need more interest, participation, volunteers, and people.
- 5) NAMC Institute of Zoroastrian Studies (NAMC IZS)- activities:
 - a) NAMC IZS has been operating for a few years, conducting courses, classes, lectures, discussion groups, podcasts, and 1on1 Discussions.
 - b) Registrar of NAMC IZS, Mobedyar Bomi Damkevala, presented an update:
 - i) All activities are open to all members and people of all nations and backgrounds.
 - ii) Over the last 4 years – 20 courses, 22 lectures, 14 discussion groups, and 18 podcasts were offered by NAMC IZS.
 - iii) An honorarium of \$100 is given to each instructor per class of each course.
- 6) Membership in the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)
 - a) NAMC IZS is nominated as a member of ATS

- b) ATS membership will provide more NAMC IZS exposure and standing with other Theological educational institutes and promote NAMC IZS events to other Theological schools.
- 7) Print books for congregational prayers and distribute them at North American Zoroastrian Associations.
- a) The Committee of Adi Unwalla, Tehemton Mirza, and Behram Panthaki was formed to review what prayers should be included in the communal prayers book.
- 8) Presentation, discussion and voting on Initiating Mobeds in North America (NA)
- Ervad Mirza outlined the work done by the committee on initiating Mobeds in North America:
- a) The committee consisted of Ervad Zarrir Bhandara, Ervad Cawas Desai, Ervad Khushrav Nariman, Ervad Porus Bulsara, Ervad Kobad Zarolia and Ervad Tehemton Mirza
 - b) The committee received and noted concerns from a few members.
 - c) Ervad Bhandara and Ervad Mirza consulted with Dasturji Kotwal in person.
 - d) Ervad Mirza also consulted with Dasturji Khurshed Dastur.
 - e) Dasturji Kotwal stated “no objection” (mane vaandho nathi) to the initiation of Mobeds in North America, as long as the initiates in NA are not called Ervad.

The members reviewed the “Initiating Mobeds in North America” document line by line, discussing and debating each point, making changes and forming a general consensus.

On day 2 (June 2nd, 2024), following more discussions on the document, the following resolutions were presented:

- (1) “Resolved that a priest initiated in NA be called “Ervad” and the ceremony leading to it be called “Navar”.
Voting: In favour 8, Against 9
The resolution was declared failed.
- (2) “Resolved that the ceremony to become a Zoroastrian priest in North America be called Navar and the priest so initiated be called an “Athravan””
Voting: In favour 6, Against 11
The resolution was declared failed
- (3) “Resolved that the person initiated in North America into Zoroastrian Priesthood be called an “Athravan””
Voting: In favour 10, Against 7
The resolution was declared carried.

The membership accepted the process of initiating Athravans in North America.

- 9) A committee consisting of Ada Minocherhomjee, Kobad Zarolia, Tehemton Mirza, and a young Mobed, to be included by the remaining members of the committee, was formed to review the NAMC programs, analyze them, report on their findings and provide an outlook for future programs. The committee will report at the next AGM.
- 10) Other business: No matters were brought forward.
- 11) Election: The following were elected as executives of the NAMC for a 2-year term.
- a) President – Tehemton Mirza:
Proposed: Cawas Desai, seconded: Arda Minocherhomjee
 - b) Vice president – Jamshed Dastur
Proposed: Arda Minocherhomjee, seconded: Cawas Desai.
 - c) Secretary – to be filled later by the executives at their discretion.
 - d) Executive officer – Mehsbad Dastur:
Proposed: Tehemton Mirza, Seconded: Arda Minocherhomjee
 - e) Treasurer US – Adi Sidhwa
Proposed: Cawas Desai, Seconded: Parvez Patel.
 - f) Treasurer CAN – to be filled later by the executives at their discretion.
- All the executive positions were voted in favour by all members, with one member abstaining.
- 12) Edul Daver and Khurshed Navdar presented the members with the Gen-Z and Beyond Survey of Zoroastrians around the World, conducted by SOAS. Some action points were noted.
- 13) The Meeting Adjourned with a vote of Thanks to the members of ZAGNY.